

HOUSE BILL 2535

By Hicks T

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 14  
and Title 68, Chapter 11, relative to visitation in  
long-term care facilities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2, is amended by  
adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "COVID-19" means the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, and  
coronavirus disease 2019, commonly referred to as COVID-19, including any  
variant of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19;

(2) "Family member" means a spouse, parent, grandparent, stepmother,  
stepfather, child, grandchild, brother, sister, half-brother, half-sister, adopted  
child, or spouse's parent;

(3) "Long term care facility" means a nursing home or assisted-care living  
facility; and

(4) "Resident representative" means a family member or another  
individual, chosen by a resident of a long term care facility to act on behalf of the  
resident in order to support the resident in decision-making; access medical,  
social, or other personal information of the resident; manage financial matters; or  
receive notifications.

(b) Notwithstanding another law to the contrary, during a period in which a  
disaster, emergency, or public health emergency for COVID-19 has been declared, a  
long term care facility must allow a resident to have visitors during end-of-life situations

and shall not restrict a patient from having at least one (1) resident representative present in the facility so long as the visitor or resident representative:

- (1) Provides a negative test for COVID-19 in accordance with the long term care facility's policy;
- (2) Is not exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 or another communicable disease;
- (3) Agrees to follow all safety protocols established by the long term care facility, which must be clearly specified in writing and be no more restrictive than protocols applicable to staff of the facility; and
- (4) Would not by their presence in the long term care facility cause the facility to violate any federal or state law, rule, or guidance regulating that facility.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2022, the public welfare requiring it.